# A Victorious Celebration

## One Heavenly Friend

Her children arise up, and call her blessed;
her husband also, and he praiseth her.
Proverbs 31:28

## One Precious Gem

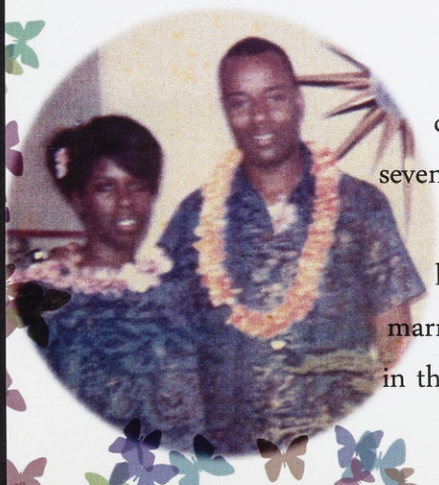
# The Story of First Lady Charlene Virginia Stewart

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you ...Jeremiah 1:5,. NIV -- So began the life of "One Precious Gem."

May 16, 1938, was a very special day in the lives of Charles and Gola Townsel. That was the day God chose to bless them with their first child, a daughter, in the City of Los Angeles, State of California. God must have been smiling, laughing and saying "very good" as He looked upon the precious gem He created and placed in Gola's womb. God called her by name: Charlene V. Townsel. Surely, she was made in His Image bringing a special kind of love and laughter into the earth realm. God later sent a second blessing when Charlene received the gift of her sister Diane.

Just like Jesus, Charlene increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man. She grew more beautiful with each year and was a lovely child to behold. She received Jesus as her Lord and Savior when she was thirteen years old and shortly thereafter, she received the gift of the Holy Spirit. She attended Ascot Elementary School, Carver Middle School and Jefferson High School, where she was an excellent and honor student. Charlene has loved and served the Lord since childhood and has treasured above all her education her training in the Word of God as she grew up in The Body of Christ. She was blessed with an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Drew Medical Center on her 50th birthday.

Charlene was in some ways a typical teenager of her day, For example, she loved to dance and listen to R and B. She loved to hang out with her friends. Yet in other ways she was unique. Her priorities were right because her favorite activities were centered in the Church. This is where she met her future husband Frank L. Stewart. Her house was the gathering grounds for friends. Frank was one of those friends. He was so smitten with her that he would go home and sit on his front porch for hours finding joy in just gazing at the rooftop (which was on the next block) of her two-story house. He decided very soon that he would make Charlene his wife and proceeded to let his parents know his intentions.



Every little girl dreams of growing up, getting married and having children. Charlene's dream came true as she married her first and only love, Frank L. Stewart, when she was seventeen and he was eighteen. Her grandmother approved after Charlene promised that she would graduate from high school. They were married on July 15, 1955, at their Pastor's home. Even during their young years, they were about taking care of business. After the marriage ceremony, Charlene went to choir rehearsal and Frank went work. She loved to be in the mix of church functions like roller skating, singing in the youth choir or helping with office work.

After three years of marriage God blessed Charlene and Frank to begin enlarging their family with their first child. Her husband, Frank, helped her speed up the time of birth by driving her up and down the "The Arlington Dip." Being a Godly mother was Charlene's first ministry and the focus of her fulfilling her divine purpose. For her, mothering was not just a responsibility, it was an honor, a work of love and ministry unto the Lord which extended to caring for other children and her grandchildren. God blessed Charlene to become the mother of three children - Covena, Deyon and Lamech; the grandmother of four grandchildren – Robert- husband of Jeanelle, Kevin, Aariel and Kendall and the great grandmother of Brooklynn Nichole Walker, all of whom are "the joy of her life."

Frank and Charlene's marriage has been an inspiration and role model for many couples through their commitment to honor God and His Word by loving each other and not allowing anyone or anything to separate them, their Monday night dates and partnership in ministry.

Blessed, Anointed, Praising, Praying, Mighty Woman of God and wife of Bishop Frank. L. Stewart, President and Founder of Zoe Christian Fellowship of Los Angeles, First Lady Charlene has partnered side by side with Bishop Stewart as the Church has grown over the past 26 years from 91 members in 1984 to the present dynamic and anointed ministry making a powerful impact for Jesus locally, nationally and internationally. She also worked closely with Bishop Stewart and the students of the Zoe Christian Leadership Institute, a Christian personal management and leadership training school similar to a Dale Carnegie school, founded by Bishop Stewart. As the first Lady she enjoyed leading the ladies in spiritual warfare, working with the duplicating ministry, having praise and worship services, exhorting God's people and having a Spirit-filled Fashion Ministry, with the fashions she designed along with other beautiful garments. She had a special love as First Lady for all of the members of Zoe Chrisitian Fellowship of Los Angeles and the ZOE Association. She saw herself as their spiritual mother. She was always available for one-on-one prayer, to lend a helping hand and to give support. Sometimes that help and support was simply in the form of just being present with anyone who was working in the ministry until the work was done. She was a beautiful, feminine woman, both in physical appearance and spiritually.

Charlene traveled all over the United States and the World with her husband. Their travels included both ministry and vacation. They often sponsored trips for large groups of Christians for evangelistic ministry,

# Charlene's Story continues...

Christians for evangelistic ministry, conferences and Christian education. Their travels included Israel, China, Korea, Japan, Okinawa, Africa and many other countries. Because of them, many of their members became world travelers.

Sewing was her passion and joy. She was a gifted seamstress which she developed into Sow-N-Sew Ministry. Blessed Fashions is an outgrowth of First Lady Charlene's "Sow-N-Sew" Ministry and her special gift from God to create and sew garments of praise and a full range of clothing and other articles for the Body of Christ, all to the glory and honor of God. When given the "Sow-N-Sew" Ministry over 25 years ago, God directed First Lady Charlene to pray and intercedes over every garment or article she sews. As she does, these garments and articles become prayer cloths which promotes healing, comfort, joy and peace. "The Lord told me to pray over the garments and that they were blessed cloth for as long as they were worn or used in any manner. Even if they were torn or tattered, the anointing in the cloth will always be there." He told her to intercede over anything and everything that she made and she would sow seeds of blessings, healing, joy, peace and prosperity through her sewing. Blessed Fashions became an extension of her Ministry which allowed her to help others with similar gifts to use their talents for the Glory of the Lord and to develop poise, good style and an appreciation for excellence while creating and modeling "Blessed Fashions" for the glory of God. Her garments were marked with her signature "butterfly brand."

Charlene's love, beauty and "butterfly brand" were reflected in everything she did. You could see it in the way she decorated her home and the Church. You could see it in the beautiful flowers she planted and grew. You could hear it in her laughter. You could see it in the sparkle of her eyes.

In 1987, Charlene Stewart established the Zoe Christian Fellowship Women's Army to build an army of women equipped for spiritual warfare and skilled in the use of God's Word to stand in faith to overcome Satan's attack on their lives, families and communities. Key components of this ministry are the monthly Women's Fellowship Meeting, Annual Conference, Annual Praise Service, Prayer Walks around Community Schools and Blessed Fashions. She also designed an array of camouflage garments with her signature "butterfly brand" which the ladies wore to signify their readiness for battle for the Lord.

First Lady Charlene Stewart is the author of an Intercessory Prayer book given by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit which is a step by step guide to praying the Word of God effectively and consistently. She knows from personal experience the Power of the Word of God to heal. She has a special gift of touching people one-on-one through her prayers and teaching. She was truly supportive of her family, brothers and sisters in Jesus and friends. A highlight of her ministry of Intercession was joining her husband in walking the entire City of Compton and interceding for that City.

Charlene recaptured her teenage years as she partied in the Lord while traveling and supporting her grandsons who performed as RKWPOSSE. She could be seen dancing in the Spirit as she praised and worshipped the Lord to the beat of their music and the sounds of their rap. She kept up the tradition as she was present to support Aariel in her dance ministry and Kendall in his sports career.

Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Proverbs 31:28 (King James Version)

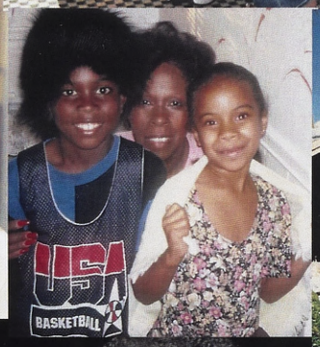
*Her husband, Bishop Frank L. Stewart, reflects on their love and relationship...*

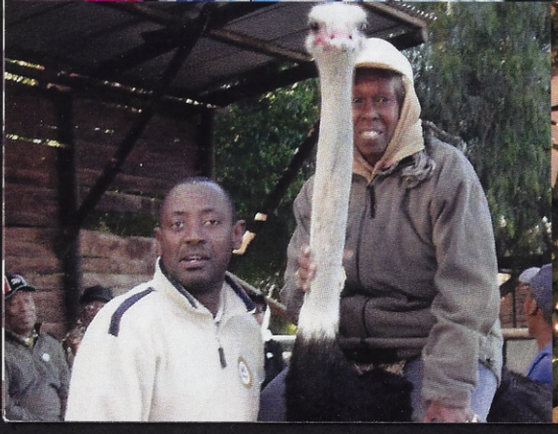
My beloved little chocolate angel, the wife of my youth
True love is like God, it is infinite, it has no end.
I loved her more than words can express.
A boy and girl or should I say young man and young lady
Are youthfully enjoying the fellowship of attending church,
And all of a sudden are attracted to each other's characteristics.
She says within herself, I see reliability in him.
He says within himself, I see innocence and sweetness in her.
A relationship starts.
They enjoy talking to each other,
They enjoy walking to school with each other,
They enjoy sitting in church together,
They enjoy going to eat French fries
And other food that would not be legitimate nutrition.
It's each other's presence they enjoy, not the quality of the food.
How lovely!
Fasting and prayer went into the question,
"Is this to be a commitment for life?"
The answer was "Yes."

We committed to a covenant with God,
Until death we shall not depart.
With all of the test involved In maintaining a wholesome relationship
We succeeded without ever experiencing a separation.
Praise God for His Grace!
To know love, at times beyond proper words,
And responses to your personal needs is truly unconditional and Godly.
Thank God, I and my wife have this in each other.
She is part of my spiritual-emotional and, vicariously, physical DNA.
The relationship will continue forever.
I pray that all could be so Blessed for 56 years...

If you ask her children to tell you about their mother, they will each say:

"My mother was a living example of the Love of God and heart of Jesus. She loved Jesus with all her heart, soul and mind. She was Spirit filled. She was a great Intercessor. My mother was a woman of strong faith. She lived on earth according to the Word of God. She stood on the Word of God. She walked by faith and not by sight. This is what she taught us. This is the legacy she leaves us. She now joins the Cloud of witnesses and we not only have our mother, we each have "One Heavenly Friend."





# A Family's Love...

My mom to me has been an example of Christ on earth. Always loving me, always there to talk to me, always, encouraging me. It's hard to be sad because I know she's inside of me through Christ. And one day, we will see each other again in Heaven. We have Christ the Hope of Glory!

***Lamech - 1st only son***

My Little Mommy!

My mother, friend, travel and concert partner, my home girl! I arise and call her blessed! A virtuous woman and my hero, which no one can compare! Exemplifying the fruit of the Spirit on a daily basis...

A woman I love with my whole heart, full of joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, and faith. Who demonstrated meekness, and temperance abounding with grace and self determination and unselfish in all her ways!

Always keeping her close to my heart! A love that will never part!

***Covena – 1st daughter***

I Love you, Mommy

Thank you for listening to all of my stories, Thank you for talking to me anytime day or night. Thank you for helping me raise my children Aariel and Kendall.

***Love Always, Deyon – 2nd Daughter***

Charlene Virginia Townsel Stewart

One of the most wonderful people, I've ever known. I love her for her quite, kind spirit. Whatever, she could do for someone, she would do it. She was humble and obedient, a graceful spirit and I'll carry her in my heart forever.

***Diane, your sister***

***1st Lady Charlene, in an act of extreme generosity, decided beforehand to donate her body to the medical students at UCLA, thus providing possible life saving information that will assist others for years to come.***

# For Grandmommy...

My lasting memory of you will be your kindness and your ability to bring joy to others. On the day you went to be with the Lord I received this message in my daily word, "When you have joy, you can use that joy to influence the people around you for good. Joy is strength, and when you have joy you can offer strength to the people God has placed in your life". I believe this was your last message to me to relay to your great grand daughter, Brooklynn and I promise to teach her to love the Lord and be kind to others. I will truly miss your company and words of wisdom. It was my sincerest pleasure to be your 1st grandson and I will forever be grateful to the Lord for choosing you to be My Grandmommie! I love you with all of my heart!

***With Love, Robert***

One of a Kind
The funny beautiful lady
That means so much to me
May be gone from the land of the living
Because my memory holds her dearly
And my pen recalls her ways
And most of all I love her
A love that always stays
It stays inside my memory
And is often on my mind
Because a lady like my grandma
Is rare and hard to find.

***Kevin L. Walker, 2nd Grandson***

Dear Grandmommy,

I love you! You taught me so much but what I will most remember is how to be a lady and how to forgive, not for the people who hurt me but for peace in my heart. I will miss you more than words can express. You are my Angel.

Love you, Now and Forever!

***Your Little Lady, Aariel, 3rd-grandchild***

I love you! Although you're gone in the flesh you will always be in my heart.

***Love, Kendall – 4th-grandchild***

SMOKEY
ALASKAN MOOSE

# Always remember...

Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and NOTHING shall by any means hurt you.

Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

Luke 10:19-20

The Stewart Family extends its deepest appreciation and thanks to all of our church family and friends for your thoughts and prayers, support and acts of kindness.

Resting in His Arms

September 6, 2011